

Message Text

SECRET

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72

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SPC-01 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /052 W

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R 281830Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3160

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4939

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO, NU

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS DISPUTE

1. HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES VISITED MANAGUA DECEMBER 21 AND MET WITH GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA AND THE NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, SEVILLA SACASA. BOTH SOMOZA AND SEVILLA SACASA HAVE ADVISED ME THAT BATRES IS DESIROUS OF HAVING GENERAL SOMOZA ARRANGE A SECRET MEETING IN NICARAGUA BETWEEN HONDURAN GENERAL LOPEZ, SALVADORAN PRESIDENT MOLINA WITH GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ARANA AND COSTA RICA PRESIDENT FIGUERES ALSO IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING. BATRES APPARENTLY EXPLAINED TO SOMOZA THAT FIGUERES HAD "FELT VERY MUCH LEFT OUT" AT THESE MEETINGS AND WOULD LIKE TO PARTICI

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PATE IN THE HOPE HE COULD MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION AND THAT HE, BATRES, FELT THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE ALL OF THE LEADERSHIP OF CENTRAL AMERICA PRESENT AT AT LEAST ONE MEETING WHICH WOULD EMPHASIZE THE SOLIDITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA IN ITS DESIRE TO BRING ABOUT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. SOMOZA ADVISED THAT HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FIGUERES AND FIGUERES HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION AND THAT HE HAS ALSO BEEN IN SECRET

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TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT ARANA WHO "RELUCTANTLY" ACCEPTED, AND THAT THE

MEETING WILL OCCUR THE FIRST OR SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY.

2. FYI: SOMOZA SAID THAT PRESIDENT ARANA'S RELUCTANCE WAS DUE TO HIS SENSITIVITY ABOUT MEETING WITH FIGUERES IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERENCES

WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND COSTA RICA, BUT ARANA ACCEPTED AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WITH SOMOZA. END FYI.

3. I AM INFORMED THAT BATRES ADMITTED THAT HE HAD ADDED A STATEMENT TO THE PROPOSED PROTOCOL IN MEXICO CITY RELATIVE TO "ARBITRATION" BUT INSISTED THAT HE HAD DONE SO AT THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION OF GENERAL

LOPEZ. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT SOMOZA HAS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA HAS TOLD HIM THAT HE WISHES TO CARRY ON SECRET DISCUSSIONS WITH LOPEZ AND HOPEFULLY TO BE IN A POSITION TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL END THE SALVADORAN/HONDURAN DISPUTE AFTER THE SALVADORAN MARCH ELECTIONS, BUT MOLINA HAS APPARENTLY INDICATED TO SOMOZA HE DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE OPEN NEGOTIATIONS OR TO SIGN ANY AGREEMENT PRIOR TO THE MARCH ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR.

SHELTON

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NNN

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